

Remarks

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the withdrawal of the previous 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-5, 10-12 and 40-43. Although the Examiner has not affirmatively stated that the previous 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-5, 10-12 and 40-43 was overcome, applicants response is based on the premise that the rejection was overcome since these claims no longer stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Amendments to the Claims

Entry of the above amendments and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 and 40-43 is respectfully requested. Claims 2-5, 10-12 and 40-43 have been amended and new claims 44-53 have been added by the above amendment. Claims 2-5, 11-12 and 40-43 have been amended by replacing the terms "A" and "as in" with the terms "The" and "of", respectively, in each of these claims. Claim 10 was amended by rewriting the claim in independent form.

New claims 44-53 have been added by this amendment. Applicants respectfully request entry and allowance of these claims. New claims 44-53 are supported by the original claims, particularly claims 1-5 and 10-12. New claims 44-53 are also supported in the specification at page 10-34 and particularly at page 11, lines 4-9, page 19, lines 4-6 and page 26, lines 24-26, for example. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims are in accord with the previous restriction requirement and do not place an undue burden on the Examiner since these claims are within the scope of the claims under examination. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter was introduced by these amendments. If any fees are required for the amendments to the claims please charge those fees to deposit account 16-1445.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection of Claims 1-5 and 40-43

Claims 1-5, and 40-43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being unpatentable over Place et al. The Examiner has alleged that Place teaches a composition for treating sexual dysfunction and that estrogen antagonists such as tamoxifen, raloxifene and centchroman are disclosed. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants presently claim a method of treating sexual arousal disorder using an estrogen agonist/antagonist, and optionally, a cyclic guanosine 3', 5'-

monophosphate elevator. Place et al. does not teach or disclose the presently claimed method of treating sexual arousal disorder using an estrogen agonist/antagonist, and optionally, a cyclic guanosine 3', 5'-monophosphate elevator.

First, the Place et al. article does not supply each of the elements of the presently claimed invention. Place et al. discloses the local administration of vasodilating agents to the vagina or vulva. Nowhere in Place et al. is a cyclic guanosine 3',5'-monophosphate elevator mentioned. Further, Place does not disclose the administration of an estrogen agonist/antagonist alone to treat sexual arousal disorder. While Place discloses combinations of estrogen agonist/antagonists, Place does not disclose the instant combination of an estrogen agonist/antagonist, and optionally, a cyclic guanosine 3', 5'-monophosphate elevator. Only in combination with other compounds is an estrogen agonist/antagonist even mentioned in Place et al. Moreover, Place et al. does not disclose the particular estrogen agonists/antagonists recited in instant claims 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Applicants respectfully submit that Place et al. does not disclose the use of an estrogen agonist/antagonist either alone or in combination with a cyclic guanosine 3', 5' monophosphate elevator to treat sexual arousal disorder in females. Since Place et al. does not disclose the present method of treating sexual arousal disorder by administration of an estrogen agonist/antagonist, either alone or with a cyclic guanosine 3', 5' monophosphate elevator, it thus does not anticipate the presently claimed method. For this reason applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claims 1-5 and 40-43.

#### Objection to Claims 10-12

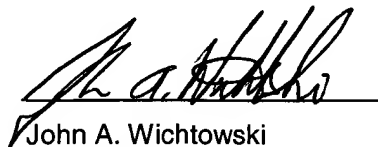
Claims 10-12 have been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 10-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although applicants submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance, claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 11 depends from claim 10 and claim 12 depends from claim 11. Thus none of claims 10-12 depends from a rejected base claim. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider claim 10 as amended and withdraw the objection to claims 10-12.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that, in view of the amendments and remarks made above, this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5, 10-12 and 40-43 and entry and allowance of new claims 44-53 is respectfully requested.

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